

## Questions/Useful Numbers

If you have any additional questions, please call the San Diego Parking Meter District Program at (619) 533-4218. Additionally, the following numbers are useful for other parking related issues you may encounter:

To purchase a Pre-Paid Parking Meter Card, call: Parking Meter District Program at **(619) 533-4218** for a vendor near you.

To contest a parking citation, contact:  
Parking Management Division  
1255 Fifth Ave  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Hours: 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday  
**(619) 236-7145**



To report an abandoned vehicle, call:  
Abandoned Vehicle Abatement (AVA) at  
**(858) 495-7856**

To report misuse of a disabled placard or license plate, call: **(619) 685-1408**

To report illegal parking in your neighborhood or if your vehicle has been impounded, call:  
Police Non-Emergency Dispatch at **(619) 531-2000**

To report faded signs or curb markings, call:  
Street Division at **(619) 527-7500**

To report a malfunctioning Parking Meter, call:  
Parking Management Division at **(619) 525-8640**  
or **(800) 808-5998**

For additional information on parking zones call:  
Transportation Engineering at **(619) 533-3126**

*This brochure is made possible by a partnership of:*

The City of San Diego Community & Economic Development Department

### Parking Meter Districts:

**Downtown** (Centre City Development Corporation)

**Uptown** (Uptown Partnership, Inc.)

**Mid-City** (El Cajon Blvd. Business Improvement Association,  
University Heights Community Development Corporation,  
Golden Hill Community Development Corporation)

The City of San Diego Transportation Department

Parking Meter District Parking and Mobility Task Force

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
Community and Economic Development  
600 B Street, Fourth Floor  
San Diego, CA 92101-4506



# Parking 101

PARKING BASICS IN THE  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO



# Parking 101

## PARKING BASICS IN THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



The City of San Diego's parking regulations

help maximize available parking, maintain traffic flow and enhance public safety. These regulations complement the City's commitment to promote a quality living environment for residents and visitors.



### General Rules

Following are some of the basic rules for parking on San Diego streets. These parking provisions apply whether or not there are signs or curb markings present and violation of these rules can result in a parking ticket.

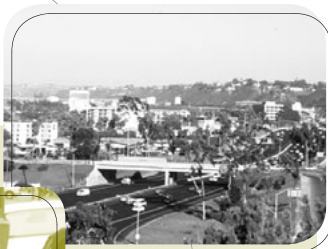
#### DO NOT PARK ...

- in intersections and crosswalks, or on sidewalks and parkways.
- in a center median strip, unless signs are posted permitting parking.
- within 15 feet of a fire station driveway or fire hydrant.
- blocking any driveway.
- on the roadway side of a parked vehicle (double-parking).
- in a bus stop, in a tunnel, upon a bridge (unless otherwise posted).
- for more than 72 hours in any one spot without moving your vehicle.
- in an alley, except for the purpose of unloading goods or passengers, unless the alley is specifically designated as an "alley parking zone."

- a heavy-duty commercial vehicle in a residential area, unless the vehicle is loading or unloading goods or has a service call in the immediate vicinity.
- an unattached semi-trailer on any street, except for trailers used for carrying personal property or for recreational purposes.
- in any other such manner that obstructs the free use of the street.

#### Your vehicle may be **impounded** if:

- parked on a City street and found to have five or more outstanding citations.
- the vehicle registration is expired over six (6) months.
- parked in a carpool lane.
- parked during a "No Stopping/Tow Away" time (in designated commuter lanes, for example).
- in violation of any parking regulations listed in this brochure, particularly if the vehicle causes a safety issue.





# Parking Zones

Parking zones throughout San Diego feature color coordinated curbs and/or signs to help drivers quickly identify parking rules for the area. The following list identifies parking zone colors and the rules that pertain to each zone.

## Red

### NO PARKING/NO STOPPING ZONES

A red curb means, "no stopping any time." When signs are used in place of a red curb, the prohibition is in effect on the days and times specified on the sign. If ANY part of your vehicle extends into a RED zone, you may be ticketed.

## White

### PASSENGER LOADING ZONES

Vehicles are allowed to stop for the purpose of loading or unloading passengers. The time limit is three minutes, or ten minutes in front of a hotel. Passenger loading zones are in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, unless otherwise posted.

## Yellow

### COMMERCIAL LOADING ZONES

Trucks and commercial vehicles are permitted to stop for 20 minutes to load or unload goods. Passenger vehicles may also stop for three minutes to load or unload passengers. Commercial loading zones are in effect between 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM, Sundays and City holidays excepted, unless otherwise posted.

## Blue

### DISABLED PERSONS PARKING ZONES

Vehicles displaying a distinguishing placard or license plate issued to disabled persons by the California Department of Motor Vehicles may park in this zone. Out of state and/or out of country placards are also honored. If you have a disabled placard or license plate, you can also park at green curbs or in time-limit zones with no time restriction and at metered parking spaces for free and with no time restriction. Additionally, parking in the blue crosshatch area designated for wheelchair lifts is prohibited and subject to a fine.

## Green

### SHORT-TERM TIME LIMIT PARKING ZONES

Parking is limited to the time-period stenciled on the curb or posted on a sign. In most cases, the time limit is either 15 or 30 minutes. Short-term time limit parking zones are in effect 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Sundays and City holidays excepted, unless otherwise posted.



### ONE-HOUR AND TWO-HOUR TIME LIMIT PARKING ZONES

Time limit parking zones are designated by signs. These zones are in effect 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Sundays and City holidays excepted, unless otherwise posted.

### "Change" for the Better!

A portion of revenue collected by parking meters located in several San Diego urban neighborhoods is reinvested to address parking shortages, including new parking garages, street and sidewalk improvements to increase parking availability and wayfinding signs for off-street parking.



## Parking Meters

The time limits, hourly rates, and hours of enforcement for parking meters are posted directly on the meter. A vehicle may not be parked in a metered parking space longer than the posted time limit and "feeding" a parking meter in order to remain parked is prohibited. Meters accept quarters, dimes, nickels and Pre-Paid Parking Cards.

Parking meters with yellow poles are within the jurisdiction of the Port of San Diego and may have different enforcement regulations.

## Additional Tips

- When parking in a diagonal or designated parking stall, make sure your vehicle is parked in a single, designated space. Stay within the lines or parking "ticks".
- When parallel parking, be sure your tires are within 18 inches of the curb.
- Wheel cramping is required on grades over 3% (hills). When parked, turn your wheels into the curb when facing downhill and towards the street when facing uphill.
- Be aware of signage when you park. Read all signs...they may include time frame restrictions and other parking guidelines.

*Because parking regulations may be subject to change, the City of San Diego and the Parking Meter Districts shall not be liable for any damages arising out of reliance on information contained in this brochure.*

## Purchase Pre-Paid Parking

Pre-Paid Parking Meter Cards are available in \$10 and \$45 increments and can be replenished with amounts up to \$49. Additionally, unused time at a meter can be credited back to the cards.

Pre-Paid Parking Meter Cards are available at various locations in addition to those listed here. A complete listing of all locations can be found at [www.sandiego.gov](http://www.sandiego.gov) by clicking on "I want to... purchase a parking meter card." Reusing previously purchased cards is encouraged. Reload cards with additional parking time at the locations marked with an asterisk (\*). There are no replacements or refunds for lost or stolen cards.



### Parking Management Division\*

1255 Fifth Ave.  
(Corner of Fifth Ave. and A St.)  
San Diego, CA 92101  
(619) 236-7145

### Uptown Information Kiosk\*

Corner of University and Fifth Avenues  
(in front of Union Bank of California)  
(619) 302-2792  
Mon–Thur 9–5, Fri 10–6, Sat 10–2, Sun 11–3  
Closed from 1–2 PM, Mon–Fri CASH ONLY

### City Store

City Administration Building  
202 C St. – Lobby  
San Diego, CA 92101  
(619) 239-2489  
Mon–Fri 8–5:30, Sat 10–3

### City of San Diego Community Service Centers

(Hours by location)  
[www.sandiego.gov/servicecenters](http://www.sandiego.gov/servicecenters)  
(please call before visiting)

## City of San Diego Parking Enforcement Holidays:

### January

**New Year's Day**

(January 1)

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

(Third Monday of January)

### February

**Presidents' Day**

(Third Monday of February)

### March/April

**Cesar Chavez Day**

(March 31 or the nearest Mon/Fri)

### May

**Memorial Day**

(Last Monday of May)

### July

**Independence Day**

(July 4)

### September

**Labor Day**

(First Monday of September)

### November

**Veterans' Day**

(November 11)

**Thanksgiving Day**

(Fourth Thursday of November)

### December

**Christmas Day**

(December 25)